SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The completed Constitution of the Philippines was promptly radioed to Washington. While the preliminary study of the Constitution was there beginning, a commission was on its way to present officially the Constitution to the President for approval. This commission was made up of Senate President Quezon, Convention President Recto, and Minority Leader Roxas.

The job assigned the President of the United States was to determine whether or not the Constitution conformed substantially with the provisions of the Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law. In reaching a decision the President had the benefit of reports from the executive departments of the National Government which were interested in the Philippines, and of the invaluable advice of Governor-General Murphy. The President was able to certify the acceptability of the Constitution.

The Constitution was formally placed in the hands of the President on March 18, 1935. On March 23, 1935, the Constitution was approved by the President in a brief but impressive ceremony in the presence of the Philippine Commission, the Secretary of War, the Governor-General, and others. The Secretary of State was also in attendance, which was symbolic of the changed status of the Philippines from the viewpoint of foreign affairs and trade. The President congratulated the members of the Convention "on the satisfactory completion of a task so important and significant in the life

of their people." He added that "the authority granted to the Commonwealth Government will permit exercise by the Filipino people of general control, subject only to a few important exceptions, of their local affairs." With the signing of the Constitution of the Philippines, authorized by the Philippine